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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.31

International assistance to Sierra Leone

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/158 of 17 December 1982, 38/205 of 20 December 1983 and 39/192 of 17 December 1984, in which it appealed to all States, the specialized agencies and international development and financial institutions to provide all possible assistance for the development of Sierra Leone,

Further recalling its resolution 37/133 of 17 December 1982, in which it decided to include Sierra Leone in the list of the least developed countries,

Recalling Security Council resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993, in which the Security Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia under its authority to, inter alia, monitor compliance with other elements of the Peace Agreement, including at points on Liberia's borders with Sierra Leone and other neighbouring countries,

Noting that the Government of Sierra Leone, in cooperation with other Governments of the member States of the Economic Community of West African States embarked upon a peace-keeping/peace-monitoring exercise in Monrovia, capital of neighbouring Liberia, at the height of the Liberian crisis,

Noting further the serious destruction and devastation of the productive areas of the territory of Sierra Leone, and of the economy as a whole, brought about by the spill-over effect of the conflict in Liberia,

Concerned at the devastating effects of those activities on the lives and properties of Sierra Leoneans in the eastern and southern provinces which have resulted in massive outflows of refugees and displaced persons in those areas,

Alarmed at the astronomical cost to the Government of Sierra Leone of protecting its territory and people from the spill-over effect of the conflict in Liberia,

Conscious of the need for the international community to assist Sierra Leone in the rehabilitation of its economy and the effective implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes which require the mobilization of substantial resources that are beyond the present means of the country,

Noting also that the financial crisis that Sierra Leone is undergoing has led to a slowing down of its economic and social development,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing the international community, the United Nations system and other organizations to provide assistance to Sierra Leone;

2. Calls upon the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide Sierra Leone with technical, financial and other forms of assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of Sierra Leonean refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

3. Appeals to the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate assistance for the rehabilitation of the economy of Sierra Leone and the reconstruction of its devastated areas;

4. Urges all States and relevant United Nations bodies to provide all possible assistance to help the Government of Sierra Leone meet the critical humanitarian needs of the population and to provide, as appropriate, food, medicine and essential equipment for hospitals and schools;

5. Urgently reiterates its appeal to the international community, including the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to contribute generously, through bilateral and multilateral channels, to the economic and social development of Sierra Leone;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Sierra Leone;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session an item entitled "International assistance to Sierra Leone".